

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the
International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 110 March 2011



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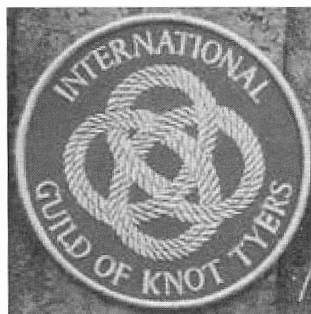
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Index:

- 5 Letters to The Editor**
9 Knots as Tools by
 Tony Fisher
**12 A Letter from Our
 President**
**12 Notes from the
 Mousepad**
24 - 25 Centerspread
26 Extract of a letter
 from Claudio Colombarini
27 How Many Bowlines?
 by Glenn Dickey, OH, USA
**38 From the Editor's
 Blotter**
39 How I Did It by John
 Heselton
40 How I Did It by Frank
 Brown
42 Branch Reports

Front Cover

Left side and top right - Frank Brown's Sporting Figures - see page 40 - 42
 Lower right - A phallicrypt - one of those parts of the warrior's costume worn to 'show off to the ladies'. The piece came from Roger Carter, photograph taken on the banks of the Sepik River, Papua, New Guinea and, he writes, "...of course is cordage and knotting made by a neolithic man" [Not sure if that is a social comment or an accurate reflection of reality - Ed]

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Letters to The Editor

The Things You Say!!

Dear Ed.,

Re: Bridport Ropewalk (KM 108; p 8) I commend the following:
Bridport Museum and Art Gallery, South Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3NR and from
Shire Publications, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 their
album entitled "Rope, Twine and Net Making" by Anthony Sanctuary. This last is an
excellent book on the subject by a man born into the trade in Bridport.

Yours,
Roger Carter
Paraparaumu, New Zealand

[Ed.s note: Please join with me in wishing our friends in New Zealand whose lives, homes and families have been disrupted or damaged by the latest earthquake a full and strong recovery.]

Hello [Lindsey]!

I am very pleased to hear that the tools work as designed [Lasse made some gripfids for me - see inside back cover]. After all, that IS the critical point!

During the "prototype stage" I made several with a little different taper of the slits. The end results which worked best did not look as I had expected on the drawing board - but function was the goal, after all! ;-)



The small-diameter threaded needles are very nice for single-strand work when the strand has to pass tight spaces. I Use them a lot for pineapple work, for example.

By the way, I recently finished a leather job [above], a 170 cm pattern-braided snake-whip. It was a custom job, and the buyer was very satisfied...

Lasse [Carenvall]

Hi Lindsey

I know you had problems with the production of the last issue of KM, so I understand that things were difficult. Thanks again for your continuing work in producing what I think is a well-produced and an interesting journal from such a small organisation.

I'll just point out one small correction to the last issue. Of the color photos on page 20 only one, that in the middle, was of the half –yearly meeting at Karlskrona as indicated in the text. The others were of two UK branch activities.

Best wishes,

Colin [Byfleet]

[Thanks Colin and my apologies to all for my error!]

Dear Lindsey:

The Sheet Bend is, together with the Reef Knot and the Bowline Knot, part of the proper upbringing of every aspiring knot-tyer. Yet there is more to the Sheet Bend than meets the eye, as we shall see.

Consider the knot which is shown at the top in the photograph. It was constructed with a static bend on the left and the tying part on the right which goes up through the bight of the static part, around its rear and under its own standing part. Or was it? Well no , it wasn't. It was constructed reversely, with the tying end being laid over the static bight and then the standing part led around the back and then over its own end and rove down through the static bight. But, (you may be thinking), the standing part may not be accessible for such a tying arrangement and this is true, but it is the tying method that is of importance here, which leads us to

The knot immediately below, which is a Sheet Bend also, but the end is now where the standing part should be and vice versa. It is tied inversely and is tied reversely as mentioned already, although in this case the method is easily accomplished. This knot would seem to be - as Graumont and Hensel state with irritating frequency in their book - of no practical use. But is it? Once again, the tying method is important as we shall see

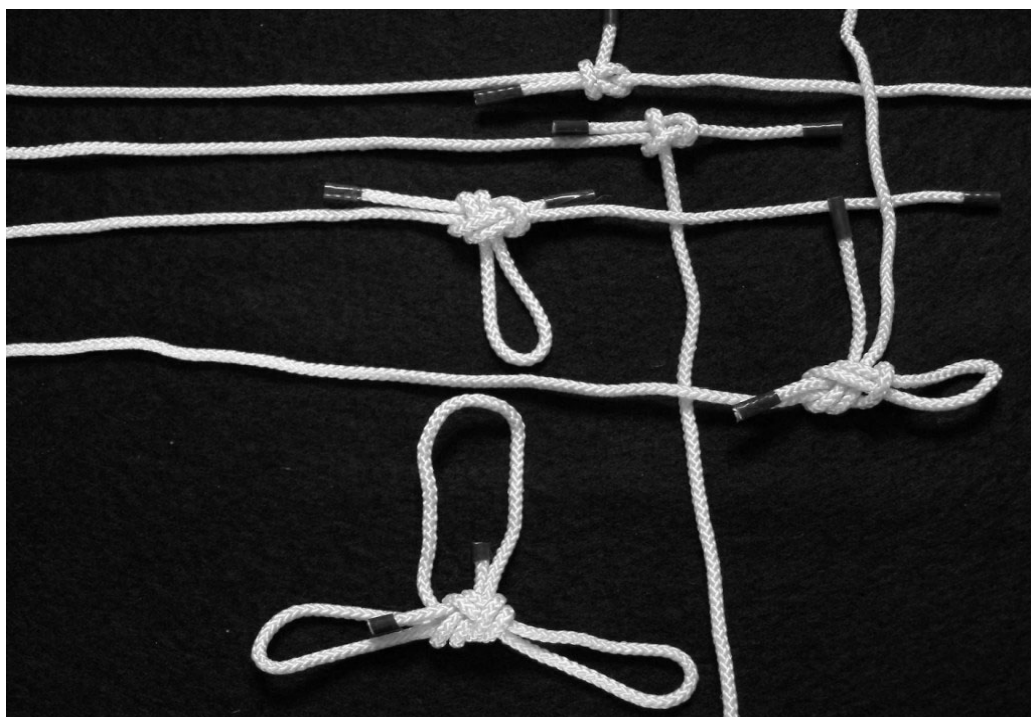
Let us look at the knot on the third row. What kind of knot is it? A bend? A loop knot? Actually it is both of those things. It is a standard Sheet Bend, albeit made not with two ends, but with one end and one bight, thus producing this unique configuration. (Note to the Committee for the Taxonomy of Knots: New knot type - a loop knot-bend.) In the natural progression of things, this brings us to

The inverse version of the previous knot, tied reversely, as shown on the fourth row. This knot, at first sight would also seem to qualify for G&H's "no practical use" designation, were it not for two important qualities.

Suppose we have a large line (say 5/8") at the end of which we need an eye. We could, of course, tie a Bowline Knot, or other end loop knot, but this is impractical in such large rope. We could also splice an eye - but perhaps we do not want to construct a permanent device. Suppose now we take a short piece of thinner rope (say 1/2") and doubling it, tie the previous knot. The virtue of this knot lies in the linearity of the resulting loop with respect to the larger line. If we are concerned with its holding under strain, we may take two turns around the static bend before the final tuck, producing a reversely-tucked inverted Double Sheet Bend (how's that for a mouthful?). The second quality leads us to.

The knot at the bottom, which is not a new knot, but rather a variant of an old knot - the old knot being a Twin Eye Sheet Bend (G&H 30/122). This variant is not tied with two lines as is the original knot, but with bights made in the ends of a single line. In order to tie this knot, it must be tied inversely and reversely, producing a single loop, where two ends would normally be. This configuration would seem to provide a splayed three-loop arrangement which could perhaps be used as a three-point attachment device.

Regards, John Heselton.



Ahoy Lindsey,

I was finally able to read the last Knotting Matters(No.108),, better late than never. Reading the magazine is about as close to "fancy work" I've been able to get these days. Other than the work in the sail-loft I've been writing monographs and papers all regarding historic sailmaking. Just finished a paper on a recently discovered (in Southern France a year ago) sail from 1755, brought to the surface and I was able to analyze it. Finished that and it became a paper to be published.

Now I am back working with the sail remnants of the MARY ROSE, and hope to have that monograph completed by spring if all goes well. On the side I am finishing several monographs, this last one is 22 pages on the history and evolution and making of Cringles. Esoteric and erudite at its best. Back to the last Knotting Matters. First of all with regards to the knotted Czech Automobile on page 20-21 I made [a] poor attempt at translating the sign and my ability to use my mother language is now becoming EXTREMELY poor after so many years of non use. Below is my rudimentary translation of the Czech sign. If my parents were still alive I could give you a complete and accurate translation. If it desperately needed, I could send/or/ phone to one of my cousins in the Czech Republic and he could give us an accurate translation.(no doubt they have seen the knotted auto).

The sign:

Jitka Havlíčková Viktor pomník automobilu Předloha škoda typ 703 C r.v. 1967 Materiál provaz, epoxidová przskyřice, ocelová konstrukce Royměř 410x 175x 153cm

My crack at the sign:

Jitka Havlichova (persons name, a women because of the "ova" at the end) Viktor - Automobile Monument (here I am assuming- automobile monument to or for Viktor(??) Model: (the car is a Skoda type 703) 1967 (Knotting material) Rope, (? with a type of cordage?? I am not familiar with?), Steel construction(?Frame??). Dimensions: 410x 175x 153cm

Now, regarding the article on the "Bowline in or out", this is a good argument and it is nothing new. In my misspent youth(60+ years ago) an old Swedish sailor showed me a fast way to tie a bowline by making a bight in your left or right hand depending on the side the knot is needed. Then under the bight using a finger you bring a segment of the standing part across the underside, this now sets the stage for the knot. With the end (bitter end) in the other hand, if not going around an object, you pass the end into the bight under the standing part segment and up out of the bight. Holding the end together you pull the knot tight and it forms a bowline with the end outside the "loop" of the bowline. When one get this method down, it can be very fast. The old sailor impressed on me that knowing this (method) was VERY important when you are up in the rig. I will try to find time to write this method up in detail and if possible a drawing or two. For that matter this may already be written,, don't know.

Have to get back to work on a traditional (real traditional) sail. Cheers!

Louie Bartos - Sailmaker & Sail Historian - 705 Cook Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Knots as Tools

by Tony Fisher as President of the New Zealand Branch of the IGKT

INTRODUCTION

Because of my industrial background in maritime and structural rigging, I often have a different perspective in tying knots to others, who are expert in their fields. The title of this article stems from my thinking of knots in terms of what is best for me. To me they are the most valuable tools of my trade.

I am not a good teacher of knots or knotting because as a teacher of primary (elementary) learners for over 40 years, as well as being a rigger, I appreciate that we all learn differently. I also appreciate that these days many learners experience two-dimensional learning most of the time from computers. Knotting is a three-dimensional activity, which requires thinking patterns that require the learner to apply skills personally. Skilled people can demonstrate knots, but until a learner tries and tries and tries again, many knots will be beyond them.

I also get impatient when I am trying to show others how I tie knots and another person comes along and disagrees with me in front of the learner. It vexes me because I believe that such behaviour shows disrespect. In teaching situations that is a no-no. You wait until the person has finished with the learner and you discuss it with your colleague when on your own. I now realise that many such people have not faced the reality of depending on knots to save their lives, they are often people who know how to tie knots, but rarely depend on them.

This article sets out to explain what knots mean to me. It is dedicated to:

- The Late Brian Field, formerly President of the IGKT.
- Des Pawson and Geoffrey Budworth, Co-Founders of the IGKT. These two men feature in this article. Their books are highly recommended by me and have been my guides for years.
- Don Woods, founding member of the IGKT, who attended the first meeting of the IGKT and was President of the Essex Branch of the IGKT, whilst we were in the UK and made us most welcome there.
- Brion Toss, famous Rigger and author from the USA, who has always encouraged me. His practical and innovative ways of communicating rigging knowledge through his website and books are an inspiration to me.
- Robert Chisnall, Canadian aerial rigger, former President of the IGKT and inventor / developer of a number of knots used in aerial work, specialist in rescue work from heights. I am in awe of Robert's ability as an aerial rigger and developer of aerial challenge courses.

- Richard Hopkins. Author, Cave explorer and teacher; amazing thinker of knotting.
- Errol and Gil Howard of Howard Material Handling, Lower Hutt NZ. They were the people who introduced me to Petzl climbing gear and their catalogues which have kept me alive for over 20 years!
- To my knotting mentors: Scouters Jim Laing and Graeme Keen; Jim Whitty, NZ Shipping Company's Rigging Loft ; Charlie Henderson, Chief Rigger, Wellington Harbour Board; NZ Chapter of the IGKT members: Pat Cunningham, Richard Hodge, Rod Orrah, Jack Sheahan, Forrest McDougall.
- John Barber, possibly the very last of the Port of London's wire rope splicers. John got me involved with the London Boatshow and the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, to work on the tall ship, HMS: 'Gannet'

Why no illustrations?

I will not show or detail knots mentioned in this article, mainly because I can't illustrate and books and the Internet do it so well:-

BOOKS :-

There are many excellent reference books and commercial packages. Many can be read from your local library. I list a few at the end of this article.

THE INTERNET :-

The most valuable resource for me today, apart from learning from IGKT members, is the Internet. Most knots can be located on the internet or on the International Guild of Knot Tyers Website. I include some websites that I use regularly, at the end of this article.

THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

The International Guild of Knot Tyers is an integral part of this story. Currently (2010), I am President of the New Zealand Chapter of the Guild. Whilst In the UK from 2002 till 2006, I was encouraged by Co-Founder of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, Mr. Des Pawson, MBE, to write about my "Tricks of the Trade". I felt at the time that I had nothing to contribute, as I did and still do, see myself in Rigging & Knotting terms, just a practitioner, not an expert. A worker of knots, rather than an expert.

What I did do, however, was to write an article called: "Proud to be High", which was first published by famous American Rigger & Author, Brion Toss, on his website under the title: "16 maxims" (Use a search engine such as Google and key in : 'brion toss 16 maxims'.) Brion is the correct spelling of his Christian name. You do not need capital [letter]s when using Google).

- Published in 'Knotting Matters' Issues: 82 & 83, 2004 or..
- Use Google: key in 'brion toss 16 maxims'

Forget about all that waffle such as <http://> or www. Or html... Just key in a word or words and click on 'search'.

Des was not amused by my writing. This was not what he was thinking about when he urged me to write up my tricks of the trade! I am pleased that I didn't take his advice because Des himself has produced a marvellous book: "Des Pawson's Knot Craft" ISBN: 0-7136-5441-4. It has recently (2010) gone to a 2nd Edition and includes a number of new knots. Its chief virtue is that he bases his work around projects that he uses and gives specifications for lengths of rope needed to complete each work.

The other Co-founder of the Guild, Geoffrey Budworth, kindly wrote a marvellous, unsolicited foreword to my article: "Proud to be High". In discussions with him at an Essex branch meeting of the Guild I asked him if I should write a booklet on various more technical skills that I have learnt. His reply was that publishers would feel that they were too specialised and would hesitate to publish. But I have decided to record them here for what it's worth and probably go some way to meet Des Pawson's challenge!

THE "HIKITIA"

Another big part of my rigging life was Wellington's floating crane, the "Hikitia". I started to tie knots in scouting, and then as a rigger in the shore gang with the New Zealand Shipping Company, in my home town of Wellington, New Zealand. This was in the late 1950's.

I then worked as a rigger with the Wellington Harbour Board, where I first worked on Wellington's floating crane, the "Hikitia", around about 1959. I had a break of about 40 years teaching primary (elementary schools) and returned to the "Hikitia" about 10 years ago, retiring from her this year (2010). I have never left rigging; always been involved in knotting, rigging or scaffolding part-time (I spent nearly 20 years building a big car access bridge to my home). Until I retired from the "Hikitia" recently, I called myself its "Rip van Twinkle"!

The Future :-

Some time in the future, I want to develop a DVD which may:-

- Be based on actual knotting work I have done throughout my life 'in situ' at various sites I have worked.
- May lead to a book at a later date.
- It will, I hope, record my perspectives, my way of doing things; my "Tricks of the Trade".
- Define what a knot really is, using the definition which makes most sense to me. "It does what it's supposed to do and once used can be readily untied".
- Revise my list of WEB sites which I find useful.
- Record why I find teaching knots to others so hard.
- Share a basic interactive knotting course which I prepared whilst in the UK (2002 till 2006) and never got round to taking any further. If you are interested, e-mail me at tony67.fisher@yahoo.co.nz for a free copy. Sorry I cannot post it to you.

Continued on p. 14

Notes from the Mousepad

This will be my last notes as Hon. Secretary; I and Linda Turley our Treasurer have decided to resign with effect from the AGM this year. In my own case ongoing ill health means that I can no longer take on this responsibility and a replacement Secretary will be needed. Linda has been Treasurer for over 20 years and rightly feels that she has 'done her bit' for the Guild and has decided to call it a day. Linda and I will support the new Secretary and Treasurer until they have fully taken up the reins but unfortunately neither of us are prepared to continue in our present posts after May this year. In addition Bruce Turley will not stand for re-election to the Council although he will continue as Membership Secretary. ***Volunteers are urgently needed please.***

There has been a good response to the Membership Update – at the time of writing (mid February) over 300 members have responded. At the AGM I will present an analysis of some of the data but working through everyone's comments, checking addresses etc will take some time.

Enclosed with this issue of KM is a letter and details about the AGM this year. If you are attending I would be grateful if you would complete the form enclosed and return it to me as soon as possible – even if you do not want meals or accommodation it does help considerably with planning if we know how many are attending. You can, if you wish, e-mail the details to secretary@igkt.net but please make sure that you include all of the information requested.

Finally, thank you to all those who have supported me as secretary; I hope my successor enjoys the job as much as I have done.

Barry Mault

A Letter From Our President

My Fellow Knot Tyers

A new year brings for us that time for rejuvenation of our lives, but more often to the scheduling of a new yearly calendar. Knotting demos, shows and meetings (AGMs) take their place in this timetable of our lives, along with the time we require for family, friends and work.

This new year and agenda recently slipped by me with the quick arrival of the first local water show in which our local Spirit Knot Tyers group was invited to participate. With high hopes of an improving economy, the organizers, boat dealers and venders looked at the event's attendance to be more than just the presence of the old guard, but an increase in new participants. With good weather, it definitely brought out people

seeking new activities and the educational tools needed in their leisure ventures for themselves and their families. This truly benefitted us, along with being quite busy for two and half days, as we had a great time spreading the word of the art of knot tying. For the calendar, a few new scout troops, girls and boys, have been added for talks, as well as a few school programs and adults to attend our meetings. Hopefully, with these new efforts, we will educate more users in the proper application of the knots they need to know and also add to our numbers as Guild members. Around the world, I see this type of activity as the source our organization's birth. Though we are truly International, the core of our work lies in our daily schedules at the local level, which teach and reach out to those who wish to know more of our art and craft. To all, I wish a good year of tying.

I reported in one of my past letters, after last year's AGM, that I got the chance to attend the Canal Boat Festival at Rickmansworth. There I was introduced to, and was given a simple jig used in teaching, square knotting (Macramé), all the while having the student construct one of a variety of figures, most notably the dragonfly. To say that only the young showed interest at our recent show would be a mistake. No age barrier seemed to exist for those who wanted to try their hand at it. Even our own group members could not stay away and it became the show's biggest hit. Had it not been for my International introduction, I might have never discovered the existence or the use of such a jig, let alone being able to attain one. [This is] another benefit I see of membership and participation.

At this time three years ago, then-President Ken Yalden introduced me, a member from the USA, as his choice as the new President of the Guild. Ken, as I hope all of us do, sees that we are a true worldwide body, united as the International Guild of Knot Tyers, and he put forth my name. I am now and will always be grateful for the honor. Now it is time for us to vote our next President into office at this year's AGM. At this time, the executive board is faced with a number of key positions to fill. With the health issues of our Honorable Secretary Barry Mault, he has decided that he needs to step down from the position he has more than faithfully fulfilled for the last two years. Also, after more than 25 years of continuous services, our Honorable Treasurer Linda Turley is retiring. She leaves us as the longest serving officer and that record will undoubtedly stand a very long time, if ever, to be surpassed. To the two of them, I cannot thank them enough for their hard work in the name of the Guild. They are two of the most admirable people that I have been blessed to know. With these positions to fill, I now feel that that the next president needs to be in a location to closer oversee the duties of these offices of the Executive Committee. I am thus putting forth Colin Byfleet as the Guild's next president. Colin, as a member of the Ex. Com. and living in England, has been in the forefront of many of this year's activities, both in Great Britain and abroad, filling in whenever needed. Along with his academic background, Colin brings with him the tools and understanding to keep the Guild moving forward in its goals of learning and education. I hope to see many of you at the AGM.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

continued from p. 11:

Using a search engine on the internet :-

I find using a search engine, such as Google, a great learning aid. I suggest whilst reading this article, you go to Google and look up those things that interest you.

SOME VERY PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

- Strength of Knots.

Every rope is strongest when all the components are under equal tension. Once the rope is tied into a knot or placed round an object, the outer fibres come under tension and the inner ones under compression. Thus every knot in some way reduces the strength of a rope.

There are some excellent websites on the internet. Use Google and key in: 'knot strength' or 'strength of knots'. These sites will show you how tying a particular knot in a rope weakens it. With so many manufacturers of synthetic rope these days, it is very important that you know the specifications of any ropes you use and by what standards and testing mechanisms they are arrived at.

- Choice of knots is VERY, VERY, personal. There is a very good reason why I have written this article:

IT'S MY OWN PERSPECTIVE OF MY OWN KNOTTING WORLD.

I aim to tease my colleagues into writing and recording THEIR own perspectives! I was really thrilled when my earlier article; "Proud to be High" spurred on Robert Chisnall to publish his own perspectives and greater expert technical knowledge in the IGKT magazine: "Knotting Matters".

I can guarantee that no one will agree whole-heartedly with a number of ideas expressed in this article. Many of us have risked our lives with our own choice of knots and those knots we used were taught to us by different people, and the knots used all worked and kept us alive! So I do not despair if another Knotter disagrees with my choices...ask that person to teach you the alternative.

- The structure of a rope: A fibre; yarn; strand; rope.

I always forget the terms of the structure of a rope, so I am recording this more for a memory-aid to myself! The basic structure of a rope starts with a fibre, a group of them are spun into yarns and then sets of yarns make up a strand, which in turn are spun into ropes. The numbers of each part differ according to the specifications that are needed for different rope functions. All manufacturers of rope detail these in their catalogues.

For a time, whilst in the UK, I had the honour of working at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, where I assisted in developing a health & safety programme for those working aloft on the HMS "Gannet". For the first time in my life I saw rope being made in their rope walk, with machinery dating back to the 18th Century! Part of their tour was actually making a rope in a scaled down machine. This was one of the most magical experiences of my life. Use Google to key in '...gannet historic dockyard, Chatham'

- In Wire: A wire; strand; flexible wire rope. Much of my rigging work has been involved with wire rope, splicing, lifting and hauling. It's a very live machine and once under tension, like all synthetic ropes, very dangerous and often lethal! When they snap they do not sag down, inert...the energy released is awesome and anyone in their way is most likely to be decapitated.

One of the troubles we often had on the "Hikitia" was that when leaving the wharf, we were lashed to a tug and the ropes used were put under enormous pressure by the tug's winches to ensure there was no slack between the tug and the crane. A number of our crew were not skilled riggers or seamen and they often got near the ropes under tension to look at the operation - despite being told not to during the health & safety talk prior to moving!

- What is a bight and what is a round turn?
Working with ropes is a technical pursuit and we cannot avoid rope-related jargon. My Collins dictionary defines a bight as a "curve or loop in a rope". I like to describe it as an open curve; rope is formed such that it is really a curve and not a secured loop.

A round turn is one where the rope goes round an object, firstly as a bight, then continues round and back to itself such that it ceases to be an open curve. Use Google and look up: 'round turn and two half hitches'.

- Half hitch; clove hitch ;overhand knot; surgeon's knot; constrictor knot; cable ties. Each of these basic, yet useful knots is worth persevering with and again I suggest that you use Google to explore them. The half-hitch is the basic step in forming the clove hitch and is used as a continual knot when forming a cover on a round object like a post, either for decoration or to protect an object, and is used when making certain types of fenders. If you tie up shoe laces, the overhand knot is the first knot, really a twist, before you form and lock the bows. It is also the first turn or twist when forming the reef knot.

- The surgeon's knot is designed to ensure a flat surface when closing off a suture during an operation. I use it every time I do up my shoes and rigging boot/ climbing laces, because I find the modern, synthetic laces often come undone. It is simply an extension of the overhand knot, just add another twist to the overhand knot and when you tie the bows, you will find that they will sit flatter than when tying the overhand knot! There are a lot of references to it on the internet.

- The Constrictor Knot. Invented by the author of Knotting's Bible, (The Ashley Book of Knots), Mr. Clifford Ashley, is detailed below, but can be seen on Google. I use it a lot. Once tied it is like a vice and is one of the few knots that I have to cut to untie once used (mind you, I am a ruthless person about cutting rope. I do not hesitate to do it if a knot cannot be easily untied. Time is money and time spent freeing a stubborn rope is more than it is worth these days). At its best when securing round or cylindrical objects, such as a group of poles or scaffolding. Great as a temporary whipping.

Round Slings & Cable ties. Yes, I know they are not knots, but among the wonderful modern tools that riggers can use, I rate round slings and cable ties among the best!

- Round slings have made securing abseiling ropes, lifting objects aloft and securing anchorages to trees so much safer and quicker. They do need protection and regular checking for chemical damage or fraying when going round a sharp object. It is vital that the illustrations and wording on the labels are always clear to read and, when not legible, the whole round sling should be discarded.

- Cable ties are great for securing objects aloft and to make it easy to carry scaffold tubes prior to lifting them aloft.

- Stopper Knots: Stopper knots are bulky knots tied so that a rope through a pulley cannot fully unreeve (spill out) itself should you let go whilst hauling on it.

- Sod's law states that if anything can go wrong, it most certainly will. I believe that this law prevents us getting too confident, like the man whose job it was to stand by the Roman Emperor whispering in his ear something like: "You are only human" when being cheered on by the crowd. Personally I think that it would have been more like: "You really are a twit, don't you agree?" Below is one of my moments when I forgot the obvious!

Here is a picture of me up a mast on a scientific expedition on the remote Chatham Islands, 800km East of N Z. You will notice in the inset photo, I have placed a small scaffold crane which we used to lower pipe down through the centre of the mast. This was to take the deadweight of a rotator motor and antennae. As you will see the mast is a small one and would not have taken the extra weight. Look carefully and I hope you can see that there are pulleys at each end of my little crane. The haul rope was reeved through them. Now, a very basic rule when using a haul rope or block and tackle is that you tie a stopper knot at the end of the live rope. Thus should the rope want to travel freely through the system, meaning you have to get back up and re-reeve it, it won't unravel!

Well sod's law did happen when I least wanted it to and the obvious did happen! Shortly after this picture was taken, I forgot to tie a stopper knot in the free or live end of the haul rope and it ended up on the ground 21 metres (about 75 feet) below!



Now another rule is that the stopper knot need not be right at the end of the haul rope. Determine how close to the pulley you can safely reach and tie the stopper knot there.

In this case, if I had tied the stopper knot about a metre below the pulley and the rope had got away from me, I would not have had to climb atop the mast to reeve it!

The best stopper knot to my mind is the figure of eight knot, Look it up on Google.

- Bends: Sheet bend and safety half hitch; Double Sheet bend and safety half hitch; Fisherman's knot; Double Fisherman's knot.
- Hitches: Round turn and two half hitches; Rolling hitch; Timber hitch and Killick hitch for lifting scaffold poles;
- Fixed Loops: Bowline with safety Half hitch; Anchor bend (Its really a hitch); Single; Double and Treble Figure of Eight Knots; Moun tain Butterfly Knot

Some Practical Hints

- Ends of ropes: Some ways of preventing the rope ends unravelling. Burning synthetics (I use an electrician's hand-held butane gas burner) ; Constrictor Knots; Hidden back splice (An ordinary back splice using only one yarn per strand); Stopper knots (Like the figure of eight knot); WestCountry whipping; overhand knot.
- Joining Ropes : (Technically termed 'BENDING' A ROPE) NEVER JOIN OR BEND A ROPE WITH A REEF KNOT!!! It is a Knot, not a Bend

The reef knot's very capacity to spill or untie is the reason that it was used to secure a sail to a yard...it could be quickly spilled to drop or lower a sail. I call it the Killer knot, because many lives have been lost by people using the reef knot as a bend. It's marvellous for securing parcels and bandages; I have used it for years in decorative rope work such as macramé.

Single & Double Fisherman's Knot; These are really bends. I find the single fisherman's knot excellent in small diameter ropes and the double fisherman's knot excellent in synthetic ropes. I use this to make up prussic loops.

Double sheet bend, with safety half hitch : This is my preferred hitch, to secure a haul rope to the object that I want to lift. Normally these days there is a fixed or spliced eye on the end of a haul rope and the load rope and these are secured with a rated shackle (Never use a shackle in rigging jobs that does not have the manufacturer's label on it and a Safe Working Load (SWL) or Working Load Lift (WLL) rating on it.).

The glorious bowline! For forming a non-slip loop. I always tie a safety half-hitch with the dead end. There are more disputes about how a bowline should be formed, than any other and all I can say is that the proof of that particular pudding is whether your particular version has ever failed you!

Splicing Ropes :

Geoffrey Budworth asked me what seems like a simple question at an Essex Branch meeting of the IGKT: "Why splice a rope?" It set me back on my heels. Or as sailors of yore would say: "I was laid all aback!" It's what differentiates great Knotting people like Geoffrey and Des Pawson with the pedestrian artisans like me! Geoffrey argued that bending ropes together is quicker, is easy to inspect and once used you can return the rope to its original shape. Splicing, he told me takes a lot more skill, is often poorly done; and once undone, that part of the rope has to be discarded. Internal damage, often caused by metal filings or chemicals cannot be easily seen.

I do not fully buy the argument, but it made me think long and hard. Where a rope has to pass through a hole, like a davit or over a winch drum, or to drag a load over a coaming, a splice is preferred.

Hand splicing is still used on the massive wires on oil rigs and where salvage wires are winched over the stern of vessels to drag loads on deck. My very dear friend, John Barber, who may well have been the very last wire rope splicer with the Port of London Authority, was still splicing wires for this purpose when I was in the UK in 2002-2006. It was John who introduced me to the Historic Dockyard Head of Ship-keeping, Chris Jones, and a great enhancement of my rigging experience.

Eye Splicing : I still do a lot of eye splicing on small ropes. I do not splice the larger synthetic ropes, mainly because I do not have the correct gear, nor do I have the 'feel' for this modern development. I'm too lodged in the past. My New Zealand IGKT Chapter friends, Forrest McDougall and Pat Cunningham are experts at all aspects of modern splicing of large and small synthetic ropes. It is a joy to watch both of them at work.

Short; long and back splicing. Normally these days, rather than joining a rope with a short splice, you would put an eye splice in the end of each rope and link them with a rated shackle. But there are still times when a short splice can be used, especially if the joined rope has to go over a winch drum or a capstan.

I notice in most publications that when the short splice is illustrated, when the two ends of the rope are married, one end is seized to the rope. This is to enable the other end to be spliced without it falling apart. My splicing mentor, Jim Whitty, taught me a way to weave the first tuck such that the whipping was not needed. I have never seen Jim's technique in any book, so I must get it videoed soon so that I can pass that one little wrinkle on! Long splicing rope: Haul ropes sometime are best spliced with a long splice and again I would recommend that an expert professional do it. Obviously long splices used on alpine chair lifts, ski tows and cable cars are all done professionally.

One point - should you be planning to long splice a wire rope - is to remember when you come to bury the strands, that they are replacing a core which is normally thicker than the outer strands of wire. It is essential that the buried strands are the same diameter as the core that they replace. Hence, the strands to be buried are served with small stuff to increase their size to that of the core. This also assists the buried strands to grip better inside the wire, increasing the strength of the splice.

- Lashing: (Ladders to framework) Square lashing and diagonal lashing; Importance of tight frapping turns. I thank my scouting days for these skills. I still use them when securing ladders to get initial access aloft.
- Use of clove hitches and rolling hitches, with safety half hitches.
I use clove hitches to start off lashings and it is used when 'Rattling down' the ratlines on the shrouds of tall sailing ships. The tradition is that the clove hitch is placed on the forward end first and as "Ashley#1176 & #1177 says: " A round turn is taken with the ratline and then a hitch (a Half-hitch..T.F.) is added below."

The Rolling Hitch is my favourite method of fixing or hitching a rope to an object. I often make a round turn on the object and take the rolling hitch some way up the standing part of the rope. The beauty of the rolling hitch is that, tied correctly (with the two turns on the lower part of the knot, and the securing section, a half-hitch, on the upper part), the rope's tension can be easily adjusted. Simply move the rolling hitch up or down and adjust the rope to retain tension on the rolling hitch.

- Coiling: These are skills best learnt from a knowledgeable friend. Figure of eight in your hand (coil it from your thumb to your little finger) for small stuff. I find the figure of eight useful for coiling plastic garden hoses ; Rope; Wire; Hand lines (For throwing); Figure of eight (Especially plastic hoses)
- Securing & Tensioning Loads: Most people use a modified sheepshank to help here, but unless it is secured carefully, it can collapse. I prefer knots that are fully locked and will apply tension and keep that tension on the load. Manharness Hitch; Alpine butterfly. I like to secure with a rolling hitch. Mind you, I normally use modern tension mechanisms: Tirfor-type creeper winches , Ratchet slings, (web tie-downs)
- Flaking Out on deck: Prior to abseiling, I have a great propensity for making a hash of coiling my abseiling ropes, such that when I come to abseil, I find I have another tangle! So I now tend to flake the ropes on a flat surface and tie a large bowline loop, put it over my shoulder and climb aloft dragging the rope with me! I know everyone else is perfect in this regard. BUT I AM NOT! I also like flaking out mooring lines and other large ropes in a figure of eight configuration to avoid tangles.
- Lifting Loads Tag lines; scaffold poles; use of cable ties; landing on steel deck...no steel to steel on deck, but place wooden blocks, which we call pigs or dunnage; use of hand signals; or radios and no shouting or whistling.
- Safety : Roping off areas; signage; Risk assessments; Work Schedules: Hard hats; steel capped boots (Steelies) ;Ear & Eyes protection; Hand protection; gloves. My article: "Proud to be High" deals with this topic.
- Carrying Tools aloft: Here I have different views to other riggers. I have a tool belt with everything tied on, so that I do not drop any tools. I also find that the tool belt over my harness keeps me at a good angle to the job. I rarely use tool buckets, except for stuff like penetrating oil for wires. I notice that the cynics who do not carry tools in their belts often find themselves asking to borrow my gear, as theirs is in a different part of the site when they need them!
- Protecting Ropes : West country Whipping; Leather binding; rope serving; Gaffer tape; Wire serving; Old rope binding; Carpet round steel girders

- Use of Modern Technology : I love a lot of the new gear and learnt a lot about inspecting this equipment as storeman to the Unusual Riggers at Earl's Court in London. Gaffer tape; Cable ties: Fixed and renewable; heat guns; round slings; shackles and pin securing; chain blocks; ratchet ties and lever pulls;
- Gear I use when working aloft : All tied or secured to my belt or harness; a safety knife to cut myself free; heavy spike (often used as a 'persuader' to jammed shackle pins); Swedish fid; adjustable spanner [wrench]; radio; Band-Aids or other sticking plaster; water; sunglasses, with cord between stems; in hot climates, salt tablets. A limiting factor is often how long you can go without needing to have a piddle. I find a small fruit juice bottle great, provided the cap can screw on tightly!

IN SUMMARY

- I have never succeeded in teaching others to tie knots...
- Everyone learns in different ways.. There are excellent internet activities, like animated knot tying that may be of use to you, see my brief page on Knotting websites..
- I find that I can demonstrate how I tie a particular knot, but the learner has to work out the best way that they learn and then practice the knot..
- Every knot person has their own favourite knots; it is up to each person to learn those best suited to them
- Most knots are very easy to tie and very easy to forget. It is one discipline in learning that knots have to be tied many times before they become automatic.
- I find that people today are very skilled at 2-dimensional activities, but knotting is a 3-dimensional activity.

One definition of an efficient knot is that it does the job it is designed to do and after use, it can be easily untied. Each of the above fits this definition.

You might like to read Proud to be High" either...

- Published in 'Knotting Matters' Issues: 82 & 83, 2004 or..
 - Find it on Brion Toss' Website : <http://www.briontoss.com/> Left click on 'New Fairleads'; then left click on: 'back to Fairleads Index' (top left, under 'Fairleads'; then left click on:- 'September/October 2003: 16 maxims'.
 - Or.. email me direct at tony67.fisher@yahoo.co.nz
- Tony Fisher.3 Manuka Street, Stokes Valley LOWER HUTT: 5019
(AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND)

KNOTTING WEBSITES.

For simple knotting try these animations:-

<http://brightonventurers.multiply.com/links/item/22>

(The 42nd Brighton troop, another of the many scout Websites found on the Internet.)

•The 'Bible' of knotting people all over the world is a book, called: "The Ashley Book of Knots" by Clifford Ashley.

The comparable guide to knotting Websites' on the Internet is from a person called Peter Suber. An awesome collection of URL's (Internet addresses): -

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/knotlink.htm>

This site includes books; posters; videos on both Knotting and Knot Theory.

The International Guild of Knot Tyers is the organisation which is the repository of much experience/ Look up the 'Beginners' section and 'Links', on their Website at:-

<http://www.igkt.net/>

Naturally, as a rigger, my favourite Website is that of American Rigger, Brion Toss at: -

<http://www.briontoss.com/>

Look up the left panel on the homepage under the heading 'Fairleads'. [Spartalk - Ed]

There is always a challenging article about sailing and rigging there. For backcopies, see at the top of the page: 'Back to 'Fairleads Index'. I have a personal stake in that. Brion published my article there some time ago under the heading: '16 Maxims'

KNOTTING BOOKS.

There are many, many knotting books. As a general rule, look to see if the author is a member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT). People such as Geoffrey Budworth; Des Pawson; Gordon Perry; Brion Toss; Richard Hopkins... all very experienced in the Knotting Arts and their books are all beautifully illustrated.

A SELECTION OF THE ABOVE AUTHORS' PUBLICATIONS, MANY OF THEM AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM: -

'Knots' by Richard Hopkins (Salamander) 2003.

ISBN: 1 84065 508 9

'The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots & Ropework' by Geoffrey Budworth (Select Editions) 2001 ISBN: 1 84309 146 1.

'Knots' by Gordon Perry (Grange Books) 2002

ISBN: 1 84013 493 3.

'The Handbook of Knots' (DK Publishing) 1998.

'Des Pawson's Knotcraft' by Des Pawson (Alard Coles Nautical)

2003 ISBN: 0 7136 5441 4 This is an excellent book where Des shares his extensive knowledge and 'tricks of the trade' of making numerous objects such as mats; fenders; key fobs; bell ropes and many more, with rope.

'The Rigging Handbook' by Brion Toss (Famous American Rigger,
ISBN 0-7136 6918-7Excellent website)

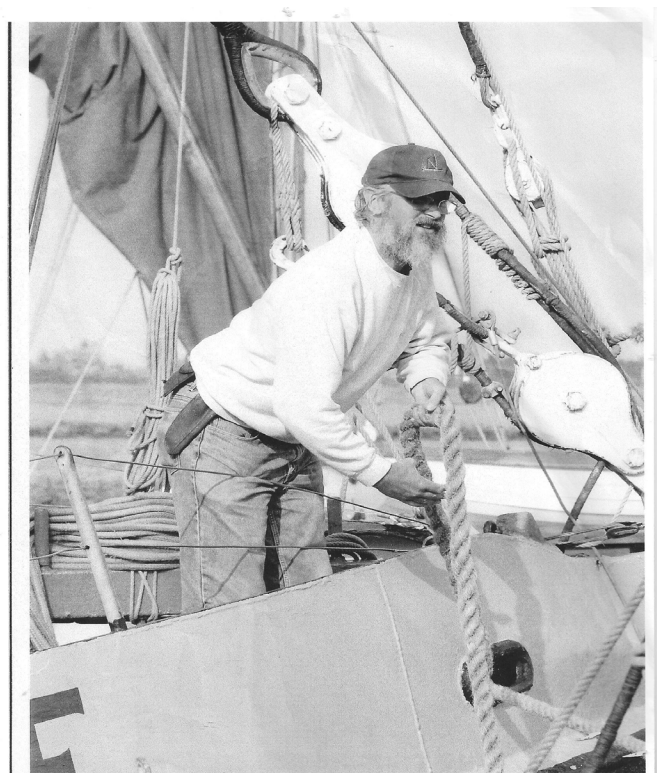
THE BOOKS THAT I HAVE FOUND MOST USEFUL FOR KNOTTING ARE: -

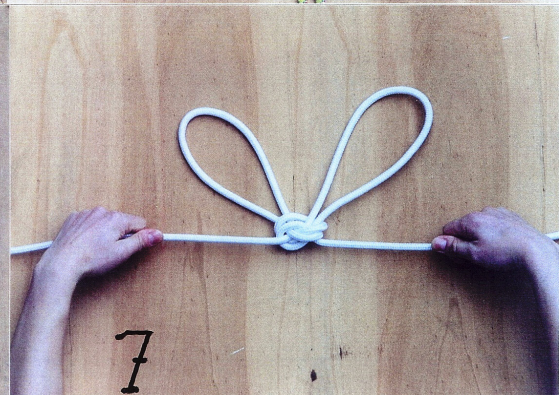
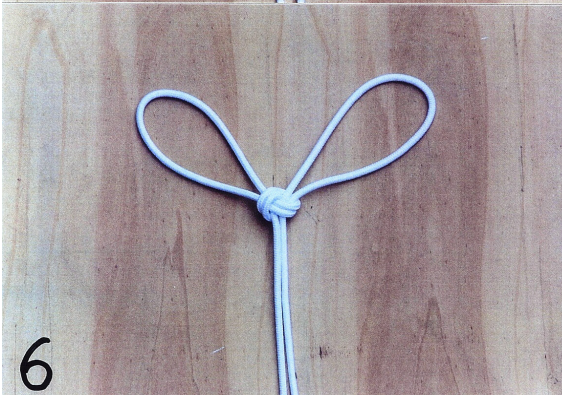
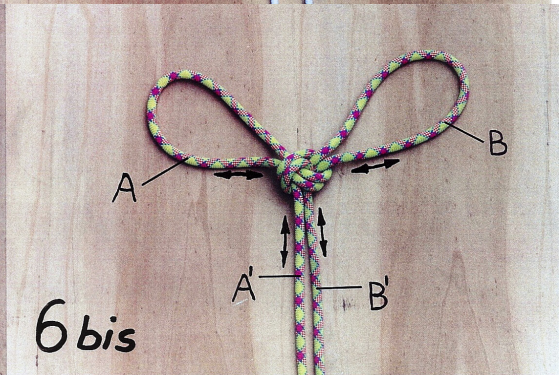
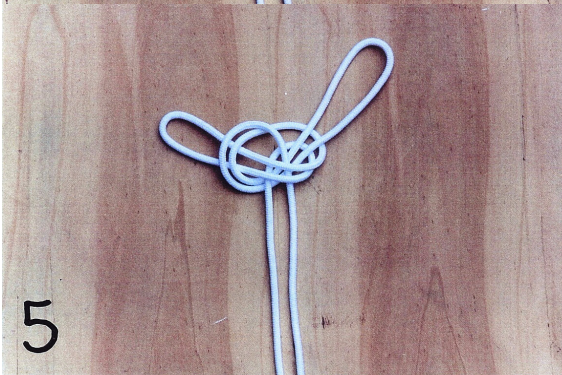
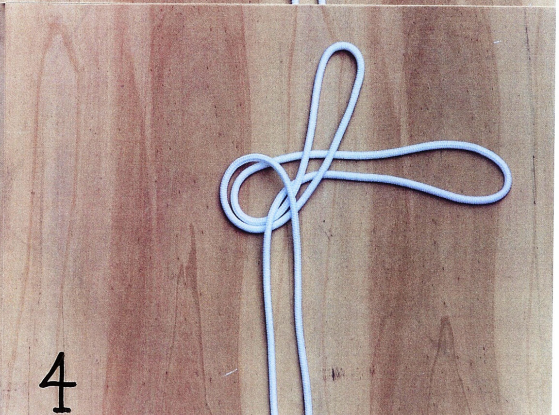
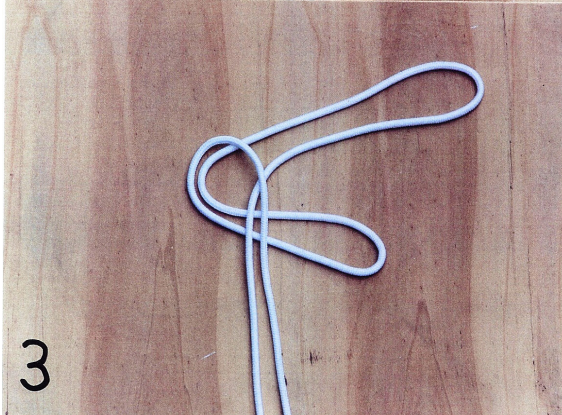
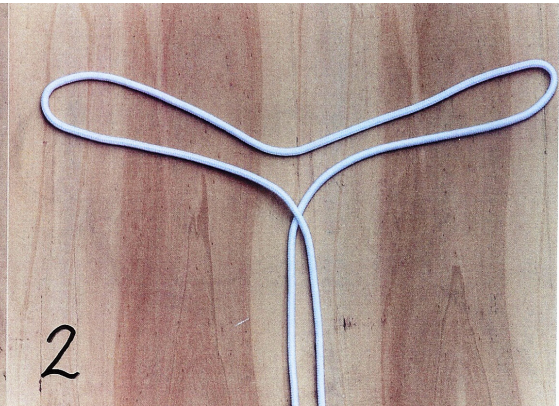
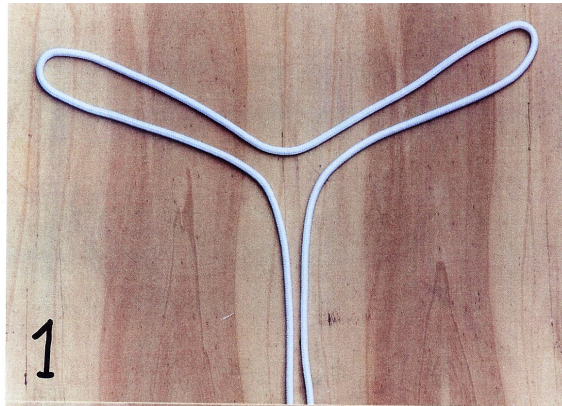
1. 'The Arts of the Sailor' & 'The Marlinespike Sailor' by Hervey Garret Smith.(Excellent illustrations/drawings)
2. 'Knots Splices and Fancy Rope Work' by Charles Spencer.
3. 'The Ashley Book of Knots' The "Bible" of everyone in the Knotting world. It contains well over 3,000 knots, beautifully hand drawn illustrations by the author. A must for the serious knitter.
4. Use Peter Suber's excellent website to locate good books (and all other knotting resources) and he sells them on Amazon.com
<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/knotlink.htm#bookstore>

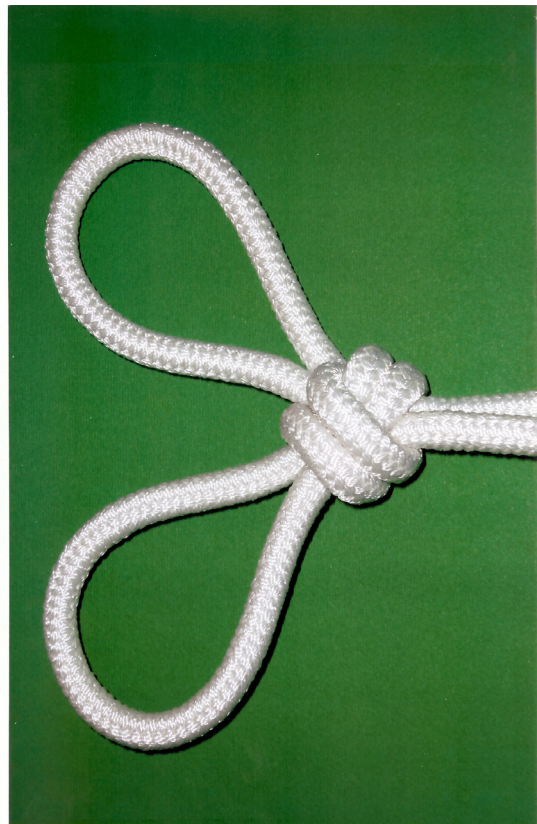
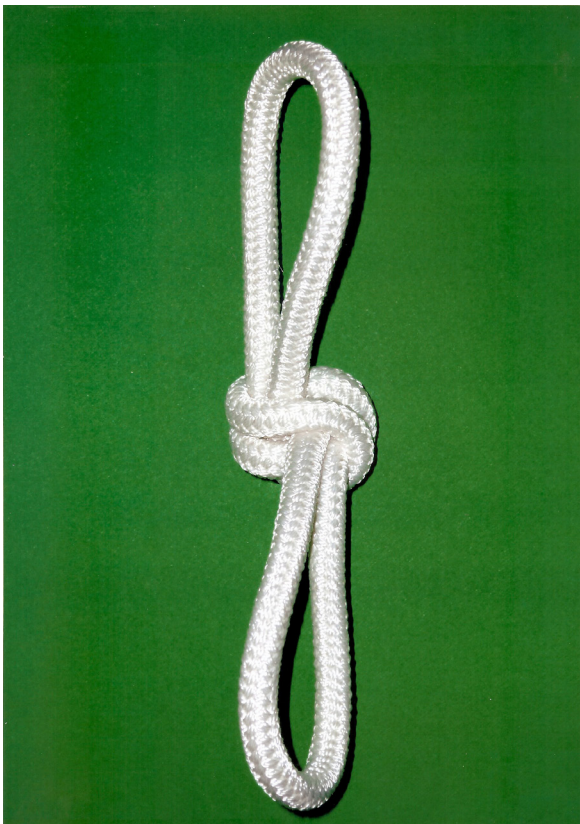
Kia Ora, E Hoa ma (Greeting to all my Friends).

I found this lovely photo in my IGKT file today and thought that it encapsulates the riggers' art. Richard and his Wife, Sarah, are Riggers who work at the River Port of Maldon on the East Coast of the UK and are committed IGKT members. Sarah took over the late Brian Field's "Knotman of Maldon" enterprise.

This is a lovely shot of Richard, doing what he loves best, rigging on and crewing Thames Barges.







Left and above - Claudio Colombarini's Dove Knot discovery (see page 26) - what do you think?



Left: Dr. Jan Vos' pyramid knot, amusingly stuck into the receptacle of a wine bottle holder laid flat on its back instead of the normal upright position, where the wine bottle seemingly sticks out with no visible means of support!

Extract of a letter from Claudio Colombarini

Dear Sirs,

I will start with the report of the facts that have brought me to write to you.

July 2008: Sitting at my desk with the Ashley Book of Knots open in front of me, I was trying to tie a double forked loop in the bight (#1097) with a bit of cord. I was fascinated by this knot because its central crown, when doubled, looks like the international trade mark for products made of pure wool. After a long series of perfectly tied knots, because of a mistake, I found myself looking at a mysterious knot. I immediately realised that it was something that I had never seen before and I was astonished by its symmetries. In the middle of the night, I put the knot in one of my desk drawers feeling certain that, when my mind was clearer and more alert, I would certainly discover what this knot was, looking for it in the ABOK or in some other book.

December 2008: The knot was not reported in my books, I am sure of this. I would often fiddle with it in the hope I would be able to understand what it was, but to no avail. Shortly after Christmas I found the courage to loosen it as little as possible to draw its interlacement. Once I had finished drawing, I tightened the knot again.

January 2009: The knot and its drawings were still steadily “parked” on my desk. I started to try and make the knot again with another piece of cord, without untying the original one, using the procedure that starts with the working end, following every step. After a few repetitions, with the tranquility of being able to loosen or untie it at will, I found out that it was possible to make it using the bight. Even if I know just a little about knots, I am aware that there could be other procedures or ways to tie it.

July 2009: My research has spread to some libraries in town. Tying knots is a very specific subject and in none of the libraries could I find the books I already own. Then, eventually, a glimmer! While I was doing something that has nothing to do with knots, I had a sudden insight: the Wall Knot! A knot I have never liked, as both splices and hemp ropes belong to the past, but also because I have always considered those knots too difficult for me, beyond my reach. I opened a knot manual and looked for the Wall Knot; then I tried to make that knot with three pieces of cords, simulating the three strands of a rope. Look! Immediately I was able to make it - it was really easy! So my mysterious knot is nothing but a double forked loop in the bight. Please let me know if my insight is correct

Among the first pages of my first handbook I keep a small cutting, yellow with age, taken from the front page of an Italian newspaper, reporting what the English Times had published on its front page, basically the news of Dr. Hunter's sensational discovery. I have called my own discovery the Dove Knot, because of its resemblance to a dove's wings. *[see pages 24/25 for details of how Claudio came to tie this knot.]*

How Many Bowlines (revisited)?

as asked by Glenn Dickey, IGKTNAB, Ohio, USA

The report from the Solent Branch in the December 2010 issue of Knotting Matters (KM Issue 109) brought up the question again of how many Bowline knots exist. In the report the Solent branch indicated there were 80 to 85 Bowline knot variations with over 250 names. This prompted another look at the research I had done and reported in Knotting Matters, Issue 87, page 16.

Thanks to the IGKT board, I have copies of issues 1 to 30 on CD. I also have Issues 67 through 109. I researched all of the issues of Knotting Matters in my possession looking for references to Bowline knots. A list of Knotting Matters with references to Bowlines appears later in this letter. I also did a cursory look through my library of knotting books and did another search on the Internet.

Research found 157 Bowline names including bends and hitches with 50 names describing the same knot. There is also one instance of a knot being called a Bowline (The Baker Bowline) when it is actually a variation of a Trucker's Hitch. This leaves us with 139 separate bowline knots. As hard as I tried, I'm sure I missed a few references to Bowlines and I haven't researched instances where different knots have gotten the same name. Allowing for mistakes I feel this would give us approximately 135 Bowline knot variations. Other than the example above I also haven't recorded instances where knots are identified as Bowlines but are also identified as non-bowline knots.

If you are concerned my calculations aren't correct, there were 47 names in 17 different groups for the same knot, but I had to subtract one name from each group to identify a specific knot. For example the names, Common bowline, Inverted bowline, One handed bowline, Ordinary bowline, Right Handed common bowline, Seized bowline, Simple bowline, Spilled Hitch bowline, Standing bowline, and "The" bowline all refer to the same knot. I had to subtract one from the group to get an accurate count of Bowlines. The complete listing of Bowline names is shown later on in this letter.

In doing this research, I excluded instances (when and where I could) where a Bowline was named by an individual but wasn't in common usage. For example, one individual called a Bowline the "German" bowline because he had seen sailors who had trained in Germany using a variation of the Bowline, but the name wasn't in general usage aboard ship. The name "German" bowline was his reference to the knot used by the other sailors. In this example, I didn't use "German Bowline" as one of the names in general usage.

By no means is this a definitive report. It's just an example of the combinations and permutations that can happen in the knotting world and the confusion that results. However, I encourage IGKT members to find other Bowline knots and names. I keep an active list on my website, www.morethanknots.com. Updates are welcome and I will change my website accordingly.

Bowline Article	Publication	KM Issue Ref	page	Comments
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I don't have issues 31 through 66

Bowline article by Owen		
K Nuttall	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 28
Ashley # 1025	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 28
Ashley Bowline slip knot		
#1117	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 34
Bowline slip knot	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 34
Bowline slip knot		
(Linfit way)	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 33

Bowline Article	Publication	KM Issue Ref page	Comments
=====			
Compromise Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 29	
Double Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 30	
Eskimo Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 15	
Figure Eight Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 30	
French Bowline, Linfit way	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 34	
Improved Linfit bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 32	
Linfit Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 31	
Plain bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 28	
Portugese Bowline, Linfit way	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 34	
Standard bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 28	
True Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 67 pg 29	
Spanish Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 72 pg 11	
Bowline in the bight	Knotting Matters	Issue 76 pg 15	
Article by Dick Cle- ments	Knotting Matters	Issue 84 p8	
Irish Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 84 pg 8	
Compromise Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 84 pg 15	
How many Bowlines by Glenn Dickey	Knotting Matters	Issue 87 pg 16	
Bowline Failure by Heinz Prohaska	Knotting Matters	Issue 88 pg 19	
New Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 88 pg 44	
Single Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 88 pg 44	
Ashley # 1058	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 19	
Compromise Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 19	
Double Bight Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 16	
Double Bowline w/a Bowline backup	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 17	
Double Knotted Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 16	
Double Loop Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 16	
Ring Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 17	
Security of Bowlines by Rob Chisnal	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 14	
Single Bowline in the bight	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 19	
Standard bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 15	
Stopper Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 17	
Tucked Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 16	
Yosemite Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 90 pg 16	
Security of Bowlines by Rob Chisnal - continued	Knotting Matters	Issue 91 pg 18	

Bowline Article	Publication	KM Issue Ref page	Comments
=====			
The Bowline (article)	Knotting Matters	Issue 93	pg 33
Group of knots by			
Owen K Nuttall	Knotting Matters	Issue 94	pg 32
Big Brother Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 94	pg 33
Little Sister Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 94	pg 33
Sister Loops (not called a bowline page 33.)	Knotting Matters	Issue 96	pg 15 (See issue 94
Left Handed Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 97	pg 15
Tying a Chinese Bowline			
by Sjoerd van Marle	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 28
Eskimo Bowline by			
Owen K Nuttall	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 18
Arctic Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 21
Boas Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 19
Eskimo Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 19
Inuit Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 19
Mongolian Knot	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 19
Panama Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 101	pg 19
New Zealand / Kiwi			
Bowline	Knotting Matters	Issue 109	pg 5
Solent Branch meeting	Knotting Matters	Issue 109	pg 45

The table of Names follows:

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Algonquin					
bowline	1	ABOK # 1045	Pg 189	17	(See below)
Anchor bowline	2	Fisherman's Knots & Nets	Pg 119		
Angler's loop b.	3				
Arctic bowline	4	KM - Issue 101	Pg 21		
Ashley # 1010	5	ABOK	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Ashley # 1011	6	ABOK	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Ashley # 1012	7	ABOK	Pg 186		
Ashley # 1013	8	ABOK	Pg 186	8	(See below)
Ashley # 1014	9	ABOK	Pg 186	12	(See below)
Ashley # 1015	10	ABOK	Pg 186		
Ashley #1016	11	ABOK	Pg 186		
Ashley # 1034 1/212		ABOK	Pg 188	13	(See below)
Ashley # 1045	13	ABOK	Pg 189	17	(See below)
Ashley # 1072	14	ABOK	Pg 193	14	(See below)
Ashley # 1074	15	ABOK	Pg 194	15	(See below)

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Ashley # 1075	16	ABOK	Pg 194	10	(See below)
Ashley # 1079	17	ABOK	Pg 194	6	(See below)
Ashley # 1080	18	ABOK	Pg 195	10	(See below)
Ashley # 1083	19	ABOK	Pg 196	5	(See below)
Ashley # 1087	20	ABOK	Pg 197	16	(See below)
Back bowline	21	G & H - PI 11/205	Pg 36		
Baker bowline	22	US Army Training Manual TM 5-725	Pg 42		Not a Bowline
Belt & braces b.	23	KM - Issue 23	Pg 5		
Big Brother b.	24	KM - Issue 94	Pg 33		
Birmingham b.	25	Internet		2	(See below)
Boas bowline	26	KM - Issue 9	Pg 9	11	(See below)
Bow bowline	27	G & H - PI 11/212	Pg 38		
Bowline Hitch	28	G & H - PI 45/315	Pg 97		
Bowline on a/the coil	29	Knots & Ropes for Climbers	Pg 17		
Bowline on-the -bight	30	G & H - PI 11/209	Pg 38	10	(See below)
Bowline on-the -bight & B. tie knot	31	ABOK #1075	Pg 194	10	(See below)
Bowline on-the -bight w/B. on it	32	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 62G	Pg 68	10	(See below)
Bowline slip knot	33	KM - Issue 67	Pg 33		
Bowline with a bight	34	ABOK #1074	Pg 194	15	(See below)
Bowline with a half-hitch	35	ABOK #1012	Pg 186		
Brummycham b.	36	Directory of Knots	Pg 170		
Brummycham b. - multiple	37	Alternative Knot Book	Pg 85		
Carrick Bend B.	38	G & H - PI 11/194	Pg 34		
Chinese bowline	39	G & H - PI 43/290	Pg 95		
Chinese Twin Loop bowline	40	G & H - PI 50/369	Pg 105		
Climber's b'line	41	Knots		4	(See below)
Clinch bowline	42	G & H - PI 11/201	Pg 36		
Clove Hitch b'line	43	KM - Issue 90	Pg 16		
Common b'line	44	ABOK # 1010	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Compromise b.	45	KM - Issue 67	Pg 32		

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Double Bight b.	46	KM - Issue 90	Pg 16		
Double bowline	47	G & H - PI 10/187	Pg 34		
Double bowline on-the-bight	48	ABOK #1083	Pg 196	5	(See below)
Double bowline with a b. backup	49	KM - Issue 90	Pg 17		
Double caulker's chair Bowline	50	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	(See below)
Double chaise de calfat bowline	51	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	(See below)
Double knotted b.	52	KM - Issue 90	Pg 16		
Double knotted Spanish bowline	53				
Double Loop b.	54	KM - Issue 90	Pg 16		
Double loop Portuguese b.	55	G & H - PI 50/364	Pg 105		
Double or round turn bowline	56	ABOK #1013	Pg 186	8	(See below)
Double Portu guese B. Hitch	57	G & H - PI 47/339	Pg 102		
Double Spanish b.	58				
Dutchman's Bowline 1st var.	59	G & H - PI 51/386	Pg 108		
Dutchman's Bowline 2nd var.	60	G & H - PI 51/387	Pg 108		
Enhanced b'line	61	Alternative Knot Book	Pg 73		
Enhanced dbl. b.	62				
Eskimo / Inuit bowline	63	KM - Issue 101	Pg 18	11	(See below)
Eye Bowline	64	G & H - PI 10/192	Pg 35	6	(See below)
False French Bowline seized	65	G & H - PI 50/365	Pg 105		
False Spanish Bowline	66	G & H - PI 11/207	Pg 36		
Figure-of-eight bowline	67	KM - Issue 67	Pg 30		
Fingertip bowline	68	Knots for Boaters	Pg 48		
Fisherman's bowline	69	G & H - PI 10/191	Pg 34		
Fool's bowline	70	G & H - PI 10/189	Pg 34		
French Bowline	71	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	(See below)
French Bowline on-the-bight	72	G & H - PI 10/183	Pg 34	5	(See below)

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
French bowline variation		73	G & H - Pl 314/3	Pg 588	
French / Portuguese Bowline (Linfit way)	74	KM - Issue 67	Pg 32		
Hawser bowline	75	ABOK #1014	Pg 186	12	(See below)
Heaving Line b.	76	Fisherman's Knots & Nets	Pg 127		
Hitched Spanish Bowline	77	G & H - Pl 47/338	Pg 102		
Improved Linfit Bowline	78	KM - Issue 67	Pg 32		
Inside b. seized	79	G & H - Pl 11/211	Pg 38		
Interlocking b.	80				
Interlocking round-turn b.	81	G & H - Pl 12/221	Pg 40		
Inverted bowline	82	G & H - Pl 11/203	Pg 36	4	(See below)
Irish bowline	83	KM - Issue 84	Pg 8		
Japanese Twin Loop bowline	84	G & H - Pl 50/366	Pg 105		
Jam bowline	85	G & H - Pl 10/190	Pg 34		
Lark's Head b.	86	G & H - Pl 11/208	Pg 38		
Lark's head					
Spanish bowline	87	G & H - Pl 11/208	Pg 38		
Left handed b.	88	G & H - Pl 11/196	Pg 36	13	(See below)
Left handed running bowline	89	G & H - Pl 12/215	Pg 38		
Linesman b.	90	G & H - Pl 11/199	Pg 36		
Linfit bowline	91	KM - Issue 67	Pg 31		
Linfit bowline - Improved	92	KM - Issue 67	Pg 32		
Little Sister b.	93	KM - Issue 94	Pg 33		
Lock(ed) bowline	94	G & H - Pl 10/193	Pg 34		
Mexican b.					
- end method	95	G & H - Pl 314/4	Pg 588		
Mexican b. left-handed loop	96	G & H - Pl 314/5	Pg 588		
Mexican b. right-handed loop	97	G & H - Pl 314/7	Pg 588		
Open b. with a bight	98	G & H - Pl 314/1	Pg 588		
One handed b.	99	ABOK # 1010	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Ontario bowline	100				
Ordinary b.	101	G & H - Pl 10/179	Pg 32	4	(See below)

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Painter's bowline	102	G & H - PI 10/185	Pg 34	2	(See below)
Panama bowline	103	G & H - PI 10/185	Pg 34	11	(See below)
Perfection b.	104				
Portuguese b.	105	G & H - PI 10/182	Pg 32	14	(See below)
Pulley bowline	106	G & H - PI 12/222	Pg 40		
Reef Knot					
Spanish bowline	107	G & H - PI 50/370	Pg 105		
Reverse bowline	108	G & H - PI 12/219	Pg 40		
Reverse Carrick					
Bend bowline	109	G & H - PI 11/200	Pg 36		
Right Handed					
common bowline	110	ABOK # 1010	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Ring b. (1st var.)	111	G & H - PI 10/180	Pg 32	3	(See below)
Ring b. (2nd var.)	112	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 61Q	Pg 64	9	(See below)
Rollin' bowline	113			7	(See below)
Round-turn b.	114	G & H - PI 11/195	Pg 36		
Round-turn					
hitch bowline	115	G & H - PI 12/216	Pg 38		
Round Turn					
single Bowline					
on-the-bight	116	G & H - PI 43/292	Pg 95		
Round Turn					
Spanish Bowline	117	G & H - PI 44/305	Pg 97		
Round-turn					
Spilled hitch b.	118	Knots for Boaters	Pg 52		
Running bowline	119	G & H - PI 10/88	Pg 34	7	(See below)
Seized bowline	120	ABOK #1011	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Simple / Single b.	121	ABOK # 1010	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Single bowline					
on-the-bight 1st v.	122	G & H - PI 12/213	Pg 38		
Single bowline					
on-the-bight 2d v.	123	G & H - PI 12/214	Pg 38		
Single Portuguese					
bowline hitch	124	G & H - PI 52/401	Pg 110		
Sister Loops b.	125	ABOK #1079	Pg 194	6	(See below)
Slip(ped) b.	126	G & H - PI 10/184	Pg 34		
Slip false bowline	127	G & H - PI 11/210	Pg 38		
Slip knot bowline	128	Knots for Boaters	Pg 54		
Slip knot bowline					
(Linfit way)	129	KM - Issue 67	Pg 32		
Slip Noose					
French Bowline	130	G & H - PI 11/202	Pg 36		
Slip noose bowline	131	G & H - Plate 11 - 198		Pg 36	

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Snap bowline	132	Art of Knotting & Splicing 61Q	Pg 64	9	(See below)
Spanish b.	133	G & H - Pl 11/206	Pg 36	16	(See below)
Spilled Hitch b.	134	Sailing Knots	Pg 44	4	(See below)
Standing bowline	135	ABOK #1011	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Stopper bowline	136	G & H - Pl 10/180	Pg 32	3	(See below)
The bowline	137	ABOK # 1010	Pg 186	4	(See below)
Thumb bowline	138	G & H - Pl 11/204	Pg 36		
Thumb bowline on-the-bight	139	G & H - Pl 32/143	Pg 76		
Triple bowline (water loop method)	140	G & H - Pl 278/364	Pg 512		
Triple Loop b.	141	Budworth			
Triple Loop b. on-the-bight	142	G & H - Pl 50/374	Pg 105		
True bowline	143	G & H - Pl 10/186	Pg 34		
Tucked bowline	144	KM - Issue 90	Pg 16		
Tugboat bowline	145	G & H - Pl 314/2	Pg 588		
Twist bowline	146	G & H - Pl 11/197	Pg 36		
Yosemite bowline	147	KM - Issue 90	Pg 18		
Water bowline	148	Directory of Knots	Pg 31	8	(See below)
Whitby bowline	149	KM - Issue 84	Pg 13		
Bowline Bend	150	G & H - Pl 6/132	Pg 26		
Bowline Bend		& in Art of Knott'g & Splicing - 57	Pg 60	11	(See below)
Bowline Hawser bend	151	G & H - Pl 7/144	Pg 28	11	(See below)
Bowline Splicing bend	152	G & H - Pl 7/141	Pg 28		
Double Bowline on-the-bight bend	153	G & H - Pl 6/128	Pg 26		
Interlocking B. bend	154	G & H - Pl 6/134	Pg 26		
Twin B. bend	155	Budworth			
Twin B. bend		Art of Knotting & Splicing - 58	Pg 60		
Bowline hitch	156	G & H - Pl 45/315	Pg 97		
Triple bowline hitch var. (Chisnal)	157	Budworth			

Different Name – Same Knot

<i>Bowline name</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Reference book</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Same as</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Double caulker's chair Bowline	50	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	
Double chaise de calfat bowline	51	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	
French Bowline	71	G & H - PI 10/181	Pg 32	1	
Birmingham b.	25	internet		2	
Painter's bowline	102	G & H - PI 10/185	Pg 34	2	
Ring b. (1st Var.)	111	G & H - PI 10/180	Pg 32	3	
Stopper bowline	136	G & H - PI. 10/180	Pg 32	3	
Common bowline					
Inverted bowline	65	G & H - PI 11/203	Pg 36	4	
One handed b.	82			4	
Ordinary b.	84	G & H - PI 10/179	Pg 32	4	
Right Handed common bowline	93			4	
Seized bowline	102	ABOK #1011	Pg 186	4	
Simple / Single b.	103	ABOK #1011	Pg 186	4	
Spilled Hitch b.	115	Sailing Knots	Pg 44	4	
Standing bowline	116	ABOK #1011	Pg 186	4	
The bowline	105	ABOK # 1011	Pg 186	4	
Ashley # 1083	19	ABOK	Pg 196	5	
Double b. on-the-bight	48	ABOK #1083	Pg 196	5	
French Bowline on-the-bight	71	G & H - PI 10/183	Pg 34	5	
Ashley # 1079	17	ABOK	Pg 194	6	
Eye Bowline	64	G & H - PI 10/192	Pg 35	6	
Sister Loops B.	125	ABOK #1079	Pg 194	6	
Rollin' bowline	113			7	
Running bowline	119	G & H - PI 10/88	Pg 34	7	
Double or round turn bowline	40	ABOK #1013	Pg 186	8	
Water Bowline	130	Directory of Knots	Pg 31	8	
Ring Bowline (2nd variation)	111	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 61Q	Pg 64	9	
Snap Bowline	132	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 61Q	Pg 64	9	
Ashley # 1075	17	ABOK	Pg 194	10	
Ashley # 1080	18	ABOK	Pg 195	10	
Bowline on-the-bight	15	ABOK #1075	Pg 194	10	

Bowline name	Count	Reference book	Page	Same as	Comment
Bowline tie knot	16	ABOK #1075	Pg 194	10	
Bowline on-the-bight w/a B. on it	17	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 67B	Pg 70	10	
Boas bowline	26	KM - Issue 9	Pg 9	11	
Eskimo / Inuit b.	63	KM - Issue 101	Pg 18	11	
Panama bowline	103	G & H - PI 10/185	Pg 34	11	
AKA the Mongolian knot		KM - # 9	Pg 9	11	
Ashley # 1014	9	ABOK	Pg 186	12	
Hawser bowline	75	ABOK #1014	Pg 186	12	
Ashley # 1034 1/212		ABOK	Pg 188	13	
Left handed b.	88	G & H - PI 11/196	Pg 36	13	
Ashley # 1072	14	ABOK	Pg 193	14	
Portuguese b.	105	G & H - PI 10/182	Pg 32	14	
Ashley # 1074	15	ABOK	Pg 194	15	
Bowline with a/the bight	34	ABOK #1074	Pg 194	15	
Ashley # 1087	20	ABOK	Pg 197	16	
Spanish bowline	133	G & H - PI 11/206	Pg 36	16	
Algonquin b.	1	ABOK # 1045	Pg 189	17	
Ashley # 1045	13	ABOK	Pg 189	17	

Bowline knots and their names have proved to be a fascinating (at least for me) part of learning about knots and their usage.

Happy knotting!

Glenn Dickey

IGKT-NAB

Westerville, Ohio, USA

References:

ABOK	Ashley's Book of Knots	Clifford W. Ashley	0-385-04025-3	
AK & S	Art of Knotting & Splicing - 4th edition	Cyrus Lawrence Day	0-87021-062-9	
Budworth	Books by Geoffrey Budworth	specific book not known		
Dir of Knots	Directory of Knots	John Shaw	1-4351-0811-6	
FK&N	Fisherman's Knots & Nets	Graumont & Wenstrom	0-87033-024-1	
Knots	Knots A practical guide	Gordon Perry	0-7607-2996-4	
Knots for Climbers	Knots & Ropes for Climbers	Duane Raleigh	0-8117-2871-4	
Internet	Various Internet Sources			
KM Issue	IGKT Publication - Knotting Matters	various issues		
Page xx Plate xx	Encyclopedia of Knots and fancy ropework			Graumont & Hensel (G & H)
H)	No ISBN number			
SK	Sailing Knots	Geoffrey Budworth	1-58574-067-5	

From the Editor's Blotter

This is the tenth issue that I have been privileged to edit and I am having the time of my life doing so! We have seen, all too sadly, several passings and, very happily, a re-birth through young people of the spirit of knotting, during that period. Below is a reminder that young people are coming to the fore. Recently a young man (13-year old Eagle Scout, Troop 271, Great Lakes Council, Noah Bagazinski) in Michigan, USA named and then tied 100 knots from memory and was awarded a special certificate of recognition by the IGKT. I ask you all to cast your eyes over the list of knots tied by this young man and ask yourself - is this something you think is where we are going with knotting, could I ever do this at 13 years of age and how have I helped get others there? Thanks for reading!

Square (reef) knot	Round turn 2 half hitch	Simple Simon double	Boa knot
Thief knot	Overhand loop	Pedigree cow hitch	Jug sling
Granny knot	Double overhand loop	Figure 8 hitch	Asher's equalizer
Grief knot	Surgeons loop	Groundline hitch	Turk's head 3 by 4
2 half hitches	Fisherman's knot	Highwayman's hitch	Angler's loop
Tautline hitch	Dbl fisherman's knot	Rolling hitch	Man harness knot
Bowline	Triple fisherman's knot	Ossel hitch	Harness
Bowline on a bight	Flemish bend	Gaff tops'l halyard bend	Tom fool's knot
French bowline	Double fig-8 bend	Clinging Clara	Handcuff knot
Yosemite bowline	Figure eight	Pile hitch	Barrel sling
Water bowline	Figure eight loop	Double pile hitch	Plank sling
Double bowline	Surgeons knot	Larks head	Jury mast knot
Timber hitch	Harness bend	Sailors hitch	Truckers hitch
Killick hitch	Strop bend	Catspaw	Carrick mat
Bowline bend	Blood knot (inward coil)	True lover's knot	Cow hitch variant
Clove hitch	Carrick (ends opposed)	Ashley's stopper knot	Ossel knot (hitch?)
Twin bowline bend	Carrick (ends adjacent)	Prusik	Versatackle
3-loop bowline	Vice versa	Munter hitch	Simple chain
Overhand knot	Sheet bend	Sheepshank	Braid knot
Slip knot	Double sheet bend	Sheepshank w/ sq. knot	See-saw knot
2-strand overhand	Heaving line bend	Sheepshank w/ half h.	Windsor knot
Double overhand	Racking bend	Sheepshank w/ o'hand	Crown sinnet
Strangle knot	Seizing bend	Good luck knot	Improved clinch knot
Half hitch	Albright special	Slippery sheet bend	Arbor knot
Slippery half hitch	Simple Simon	Constrictor knot	Portuguese sinnet

How I Did It Diamond Knot Variants

by John Heselton

I have something of a “love-affair” with multi-strand knots (as readers may be aware, by now) and in my continuing efforts to spread the word about the elegance of their construction and their usefulness, I present this batch of knots which I regard as belonging to a “family” of such knots. Their common characteristic is that of a single crown together with a single, double or triple element. In contradistinction to those knots which are complete knots surmounted with a crown knot - thus forming a button knot with a weak centre - these knots comprise crown knots which are integral to the whole construction - and are therefore lanyard knots.

From bottom to top they are: A single crown-single diamond; a single crown-double diamond; a single crown-full Mathew Walker; a single crown-double wall; a single crown-triple wall and a single crown-lanyard knot.



FEG's - How I Did It

by Frank Brown

Several years ago I built a chess set out of string (ref KM 86, 87, 88) and for the knight I made a manikin sitting on a horse. The resulting figure was very basic, lacking any animation, but adequate for its purpose as a piece in a board game not noted for liveliness. Then a few months ago, I realised I could possibly create a figurine with at least some appearance of vitality. All I had to do was construct the item with the limbs suitably angled and positioned. For the first trial figure I chose to build a runner and was sufficiently satisfied with the result that I tried building more. I decided to stick with the sporting motif mainly because "sport" and "action" are practically synonymous. In a matter of a couple of weeks I had created a couple of dozen. I have plans for a few more.

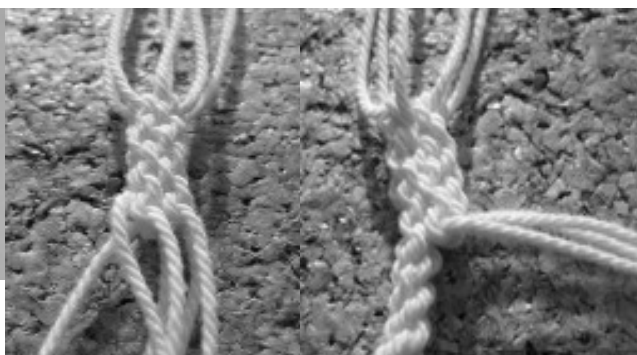
Method of Construction. The first action is to draw a rough diagram of the planned figure. FEG 1 shows you don't have to be a Michelangelo; you just need to get a rough idea of the position of the limbs, and the angle of the figure. The material I use for construction is a polypropylene netting twine, 1 mm dia. I cut six lengths of about 400 mm and heat seal the ends. Crown the six strands for eight rows as in FEG 2, then take three and crown those for about four or five rows to make the first leg as in FEG 3. FEG 4 shows where I have crowned for two rows and then taken one line through the created braid in order to change the direction of the leg. I normally use a line needle for threading this line through the piece but a loop or grip fid of suitable size are also suitable for the task. FEG 5 shows how the "thigh" of the leg is made at an angle to the torso as per the rough diagram. FEG 6 shows how the direction of the leg has been changed to form the lower leg. It also shows the feet that have been made by again taking one strand through the piece and crowning for two or three rows, (it depends on whether you want dainty feet or #9's on your figurine). The bottom half is now complete.

At the other end of the work piece, thread two of the strands out through the sides (FEG 7) and crown two rows. In order to get the arms in the desired position, the appropriate strands are threaded and the upper arms made by crowning about five rows. Then the "turning" technique is applied to enable construction of the fore-arms as seen in FEG 8. Crown the required number of rows and finish by cutting and sealing excess twine.

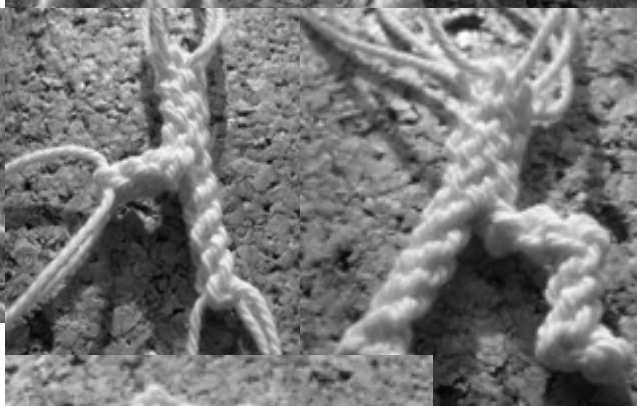
To construct the head, cut and seal two 250 mm lengths of twine. Middle and make a Square Knot as in FEG 9. A Wall and Crown Knob Knot is made and doubled to create the head. The strands are led down through the knot and one is used to make a couple of Half Hitches around the other three, making the neck as seen in FEG 10.



FEG 1, 2 & 3 (L to R)



FEG 4, 5 & 6 (L to R)



**FEG 7, 8 & 9 above (L to R) and
FEG 10 & 11 below and right**



The final tasks are to treat the figurine with a setting agent and mounting. I use a water based polyurethane varnish. I skewer the piece with a long needle (another action some find enjoyable), and dip it into the brew. After draining I lay the piece on a sheet of polyethylene, turning it occasionally and moving it away from any pooled varnish that has drained off. I assume the technique of using dilute PVA wood glue could also be used for "setting". Once the piece has hardened, I mount it on a prepared wooden plinth as in FEG 11 using 5 minute Araldite [epoxy glue].

Depending on the sport I am trying to represent, suitable extras are built, preferably from string, twine, cord etc. My collection includes figurines engaged in the following: Cricket, Football (the real one; no hands and no funny ellipsoid), Rugby, Golf, Hockey, Fishing, Weight Lifting, Basket Ball, Tennis, Gymnastics (Parallel Bars), Lawn Bowls, Australian Rules "Foot Ball" (AKA Ariel Ping Pong), Surfing, Skiing, Fencing, Shooting (Rifle and Pistol) Kayaking, Tossing the Caber, Wrestling, Archery, Relay (running), Shot Put, Discus, Javelin.

Why do I call the figurines FEG's? Do I have to "spell it out"? Eff-Eee-Gees!

Frank Brown

Hello KitM Knotheads

Meeting Plan and Schedule for 2011

With our first year as an organized Chapter of the Guild behind us, we are thrilled to offer up the following for 2011. We welcome all and are eager to have Guild members from throughout the world visit us if you happen to be in the area at meeting time.

The quarterly frequency served us well in 2010. Why mess with it if it works? We will stick with quarterly meetings. The first Sunday of March, then the fourth Sunday of May, August and November, mirroring the dates we met last year. Although sometimes not enough time, we will continue with a start time of 1:00pm and wrap up at 4:00. That is local "Eastern" time. Other than the March meeting, we will meet at the same Public Library in Nora on Indianapolis' north side. The community room is not only adequate in size and functionality, but is priced right.

(Although I am writing this before it actually happens) Our first meeting of the year took place on March 6th at the Crossroads of America Boy Scout council office. We all expanded our knowledge of the history of rope and the evolution of the rope making process through history. We explored its use as one of the first tools known to man and by far one of the most valuable tools available to a farmer, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our thanks go out to Guild member Bob Galley with the assistance of his wife Penny. They hauled a great deal of physical presentation materials and historic pictures to the meeting as support for this visit to the days of our Fathers and Grandfathers. Very impressive.

Our next meeting will be at the Library community room at 1:00pm on May 22nd. We will be analyzing, evaluating and dissecting the construction techniques used to make a bell rope. Joe Bates and myself will act as facilitators, but hope this will explode into a round robin of sharing. If you have always wanted to tie a bell rope, but just could not get a grasp of how to achieve success in such a complicated project, this is your chance to get over that first hurdle. If you are experienced and have a favorite technique or trick you like to incorporate into your bell ropes, the success of this meeting is in your hands. Come and share. The goal is that everyone at the meeting will learn something of value. Something that will encourage them to keep coming back.

On August 28th we will take a look at the construction of a traditional sailor's ditty bag. What tools are needed? Where can we find a pattern? What is the proper size? How should a lanyard be constructed? If this goes well, we may ignite a passion that leads to the next IGKT Ditty Bag Award winner. As always, if you have something to share in this presentation, you will enhance the experience of all in attendance.

Closing out our meeting year, we will use the November 27th meeting (yes this is the weekend after Thanksgiving) as an open forum Show and Tell. We want to see the best of your knot tying projects of the year. Be prepared to share some techniques along with some tall tales. Ideally, we should see a number of bell ropes and ditty bags at this event. Again there should be some little tip or trick for everyone to take away.

This will conclude a year of learning and sharing. With two years behind us, what will year three bring? That, my knotting friends, will be guided and planned based on participation and feedback during this year. Be a part and make an impact. Any questions should be directed to Rusty Helms (Rusty@HelmsCPA.com). See you all at a meeting.

Yours in Knotting,
Rusty Helms - President,
Knot in the Middle Chapter, North American Branch, IGKT

Solent Branch - Report of Member Activity

by Ken Yalden

Knot Grotto

In Victorian times it was not unknown for the seaside gardens in Great Britain to have the occasional 'Shell Grotto' to relax in. As an island we are surrounded by the sea and an abundant supply of seashells to decorate such a grotto. However, recently the Solent Branch had an invitation for something just a bit different to that. Each year we get together at an annual country show on Butser Hill near Petersfield to bring Knot Tying to the public, and this year we were approached by a member of the public who asked, "Can you do knotty things in a garden? At which point I am sure I heard a joint intake of breath from all you readers who were not with me at the time, with answers like, "do you think you can stop us". So the simple answer had to be 'yes', followed by 'how good is your coffee?' Our client went on to explain that he lives on Hayling Island, and had constructed a pergola in his garden and in his words wanted 'some thing different on the side structures that you could not go down to the shops and buy.

To explain, Hayling Island is on the South Coast of England some six miles from our home, mostly warm and sunny where folks go on holiday to just sit and do nothing. So I arranged for Lesley (my design consultant) and myself to visit and to talk over some ideas. In point of fact he is a builder so we came away with a typical builder's brief of fine details, in thick pencil on the back of an envelope!!!

My next step was to sound out my plans and choice of materials with Gordon Perry, he suggested standing Turks Heads at the top with a single tuck eye splice plus he was willing to work with me on the project. The client had requested the ends went to nothing and as a seaman the first thought I had was rope ends flailing in a Force 8 [about 37 knots or 42 mph or 68 km/h], *nasty*, so I convinced him I could make a 'reduced eye', and Lesley's bright idea was to secure the ends to a Perspex rod, thus giving the impression of lightness. Not only did the client like the idea he went out and bought the rods at once.

Gordon was booked to do his splicing work at the Southampton Boat Show, and was able to pick up our supplies at the show, and Lesley and I were booked up for a cruise in the Mediterranean (tough life this retirement - see Knots in the Wild) and I was planning to fit it all in between that and the New Bedford meeting [USA 2009]. Unfortunately when we returned from our holiday, Gordon was '*Hors de Combat*' and not mobile, so I had to convince Ken Elliott to come and sit in a garden on Hayling Island and do his hobby and get paid for it.

Now for the purists amongst you, I am not sure you will find this 'reduced eye' in any book; however, we worked the lines in 20mm Hardy Hemp, a natural looking hawser-laid rope of manmade fibres with three strands. I lost the first strand just above the lower eye (psssst !! I cut it off !!)

The third strand was then run around a thimble and back up the rope, laying it in the groove of the second strand, just as you would lay a long splice. These two strands were then crossed and tucked about 12 inches from the bottom eye and lost, a whipping was placed around all three strands just above the thimble, and at the client's request we used Post Box Red whipping twine and lashings, to match his Art Deco theme and his wife's leaded glass work as seen in the picture. Just as this project was completed there was a thread in the IGKT Website forum, regarding 'Hand Hurts', the answer is 'yes they do' that is part of knot tying. In fact I typed my answer to the forum with throbbing thumbs and the satisfaction of a job done, it was worth it.

Yours Aye

Ken Yalden



Above - details of the reduced eye splice - at right - a man at his ease! Note the stained glass panel above Ken's head and etched in the glass at his left "Sit and Relax"

West Midlands Branch Meeting held on Monday 14 February 2011

The Midland's branch held their meeting on Feb 14 and the topic of the meeting was Matthew Walker knots. Unfortunately the meeting was not so well attended as some of our members decided to romance their loved ones by wining and dining them because it was Valentine's day.

You will see in the background a rather large knotboard. This was made by Jan Hoefnagel from the Netherlands. It was presented to the Essex branch and on show at The Pitsea Boat Museum. Unfortunately the museum closed and we were looking for a new home for it. It is now in the Smoke room of Ma Pardoe's Public House in Netherton (the Old Swan). This is the Midland's branch meeting venue. If anyone wishes to go along to see the knot board (this is the knot board shown on the A2 poster) they will be more than welcome to come along and Tim or one of his staff would be delighted to serve them one of Tim's beers that is brewed on the premises (Of course you will have to pay for your own pint!).

The people in the picture are Bill Newey showing Nick Jones and Patrick O'Reilly how to tie a Matthew Walker Knot.

Bruce Turley

Back page: Top photograph is of John Heselton's latest project, a square knot bag for his sister, which he describes thusly: "There are comprehensive instructions for this type of bag in SQUARE KNOT HANDICRAFT GUIDE (Graumont and Wenstrom). The dimen-



sions are 30x23x8cm. (approx.). The cord used is 1.4mm. VB, antelope and dark chocolate. There are 152 ends in each side panel and the single piece comprising the bottom and sides has 40 ends."

Lower photograph is of a ship-in-bottle made and finished by Roger Carter in New Zealand..



Alaskan Branch

Every Wed. evening 6:30 to 8:00
 Anchorage Senior Center
 1300 E 19th Avenue, Anchorage
 Contact Mike Livingstone
 Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch

Contact: Des Pawson
 Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
 e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch

Contact Graham Maclachlan
 www.igktfrance.com

German Branch

Contact: Peter Willems
 IGKT Deutsche Sektion e.V.
 c/o Schiffahrtsmuseum
 Schiffbruecke 39
 24939 Flensburg, Germany
 Telephone: xx49 173 46 34 679
 Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch

The Old Swan, Netherton
 Contact: Bruce Turley
 Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch

Contact: Dave Walker
 Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands

Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
 De Hoop, Rotterdam
 Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
 Tel: 078 614 6002

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region

Contact: Michael Pollock
 See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle

Contact: Rusty Helms
 See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch

Second Tuesday of each month
 Los Angeles Maritime Institute
 San Pedro, California
 Contact: Jimmy Williams
 Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
 e-mail: igktfab@gmail.com

Solent Branch

Second Tues. of even-number months
 Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
 Fareham, Hants, UK
 Contact: Ken Yalden
 Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch

Meetings are held at Guildford District
 Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guild-
 ford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone
 for more details
 Contact: Peter Goldstone
 Tel: +44(0) 1483 763 054

Sweden

Contact: Olof Nystrom Tel: 08 265 065
 Pille Repmakar'n Tel: 08 6110144

West Country Knotters

Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
 Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
 Contact: Richard Hopkins
 Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch

Contact: David Pearson
 Tel: 0113 257 2689

*Left - Lasse Carenvall's gripfids made
 for the Editor with linseed oil finish -
 thanks again Lasse!*

